

**MUDIAD FFERMWYR IEUAINC MALDWYN
MONTGOMERY FEDERATION OF YOUNG FARMERS CLUBS**

Minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on Thursday 17th June, 2011
at Newtown Methodist Church at 7.30pm.

PRESENT: Mr Roland Davies with 27 members.

IN ATTENDANCE: Miss Lorraine Stokes, YFC Organiser and Claire Owen, Menter Maldwyn.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

The Chairman welcomed the members to the June Executive and the last one of the YFC year 2010-2011.

He thanked all involved with the County Rally and congratulated Berriew on winning the overall competition.

Roland wished all competitors well for the Royal Welsh Show and informed members that places at the YPV can be booked online through the Wales YFC website.

The Chairman thanked Dyffryn Tanat YFC for hosting an Irish exchangee in a couple of weeks time.

The Committee were asked for all mobile phones to be switched off and Roland introduced Claire Owen from Menter Maldwyn.

E50/10/11 APOLOGIES

Apologies were added to the attendance register.

E51/10/11 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on the Thursday 27th April, 2011 were reviewed. They were proposed as a true record by Andrew Davies, seconded by Bethan Watkins.

E52/10/11 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Under E43/10/11 'YOUR YFC, YOUR SAY'

Wales YFC had written to all Counties of to inform that at the next Wales Council meetings (25th June), the topic of age ranges will be voted on. Three options were circulated to clubs: A) 10-26, B) 13-26, and C) 13-30. The F&D committee had reviewed the opinions that were submitted from clubs and narrowed the options to two: A) 10-26, B)13-26.

The Executive Committee were invited to vote on these two options so that the County representatives can vote appropriately at the Wales Council meeting. The Chairman asked for a show of hands. Option A) 10-26 received the highest votes at 15 to 5. Ifor Jones backed this decision as an older age range would have a detrimental effect on the membership figures for the County and all of Wales. Janet Rowlands added that by keeping the age range wide, the clubs could still decide individually if they wanted to have an older club.

There were no further matters arising from the minutes.

E53/10/11 CORRESPONDENCE

E-mail from Nia Lloyd, CEO Wales YFC

Nia Lloyd had sent an e-mail to all of the Counties in Wales to inform of the sad news that Tim John's father had passed away (Wales Chairman 2009/2010). The County Office had sent a card of condolences on behalf of the Federation.

National Grid

A letter had been received from the National Grid to inform that the first phase of consultation regarding the Mid Wales Connection project stating that consultations will close on Monday 20th June 2011. There are 54 public exhibitions in the area from which they are inviting feedback. Members were informed that further information could be found on their website: www.nationalgrid.com/midwalesconnection

Letter from Catherine Bennett

A letter was read that had been received from Catherine Bennett who had written on behalf of Montgomeryshire Against Pylons (MAP), outlining the disadvantages to the area if the project was to go ahead. The letter asked the YFC to support the campaign.

The letter sparked a discussion of how the Federation could express the opinion of the members and how the opinions of the members could be collated.

Gwynfor Thomas voiced that in the past, the YFC movement has veered away from involvement in any political issues, but this was an issue that would directly effect the Federation as membership would certainly decrease if the project went ahead. Various proposals were put forward to give members of the Federation the opportunity to put their views forward on the matter. The Executive Committee agreed to hold a meeting following the County AGM. Clubs are to be informed of this meeting so they can gather their members' opinions to put forward.

Gwilym Evans informed the Committee that an open discussion with Powys County Councillors will be taking place at Welshpool Livestock Market on 29th June at 2pm and suggested that it would be beneficial for 2 or 3 representatives from the Executive Committee to attend. Roland Davies, Gerallt Evans and Janet Rowlands agreed to attend.

NFYFC AGM in Torquay 2012

Lorraine had contacted the Livermead Cliff Hotel to make reservations for next years annual convention. They had e-mailed to confirm that the hotel was currently available and a £1500 deposit was required to secure the booking. Rates would be charged at £48pp/night for bed & breakfast, which was slightly higher than 2010 when it was £45pp/night.

The Executive Committee were happy for the booking to be made.

Streamline Leisure

A letter had been received from Streamline Leisure who had had a successful day/night doing the bar for the County Rally. They were offering to the Federation a 3 year contract. Within this deal they offered £7500 per year to provide the bar and if this was to be accepted, they would also be willing to give £7500 for 2011. The condition of the contract was for the Federation to provide a good act/have a similar numbers of attendants as the 2011 Rally.

The committee discussed the proposal and agreed to turn the offer down as it is healthier to tender out the contract on an annual basis. It was also questioned what would be the consequences if similar numbers could not be achieved.

Gwynfor Thomas put forward that the County should look into the concept of running the bar self sufficiently with older/ex members like Shropshire YFC do. This was accepted to be a good idea but the fact was raised that there were not enough people willing to steward County Rally this year.

E54/10/11 TO RECEIVE RESOLUTIONS FOR THE COUNTY AGM

Gerallt Evans reported that at the last F&D Committee meeting, the members discussed the membership fees and came to an agreement to advise that all membership fees

should be increased by £1 (apart from Associate Membership which is to stay the same) to coincide with the increased levy charge from NFYFC by 5%.
With no opposing amendments put forward, Andrew Davies proposed for this resolution to be put forward for the County AGM. This was seconded by Rhiannon Rees.

There were no further resolutions put forward.

E55/10/11 TO ELECT 2011/2012 COUNTY OFFICIALS

Two tellers were nominated; Ifor Jones and Gwilym Evans were proposed by Andrew Davies and Rhiannon Rees.

A list of the nominated County Officials for 2011/2012 were displayed to the members from the projector and they were reminded that clubs have 2 votes, co-opted members, County Officials and Vice Presidents may also vote (but not life members, FUW or NFU representatives).

A) COUNTY CHAIRMAN

Gerallt Evans (Dyffryn banw YFC) had been nominated and had accepted to stand. With no opposing candidates nominated from the floor, Gerallt was announced County Chairman from 1st September 2011.

B) COUNTY VICE CHAIRMAN

Helen Morgan (Tregynon YFC) had been nominated and had accepted to stand. From the floor, Sonya Wedge proposed Andrew Davies to stand, he was willing and was seconded by Rhiannon Rees. Marc Savage proposed Gareth Williams. Gareth was unwilling to stand for the position.

A secret ballot took place and Helen Morgan was announced as County Vice Chairman for 2011/12.

C) MEMBERS TREASURER

Catherine Bennett (Vyrnwy Valley YFC) had been nominated and had accepted to stand. From the floor, David Meredith proposed Danielle Evans (Llidiartywaen YFC) to stand, she was willing and was seconded by Sonya Wedge. Steve Francis proposed Llewela Richards. (Trefeglwys YFC). Llewela was unwilling to stand for the position.

A secret ballot took place and Danielle Evans was announced as Members Treasurer for 2011/12.

D) PUBLICITY OFFICER

Helen Morgan (Tregynon YFC) and Kathryn Savage (Llidiartywaen YFC) had been nominated. Helen stepped down from the election as she had been elected County Vice Chairman. No further nominations were given from the floor and therefore Kathryn Savage was announced as Publicity Officer from 1st September 2011.

E) NATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Rhiannon Rees voiced her concern that in the past County Officials had been elected for this role and had been too busy to attend the meetings. Emyr Jones suggested that the County Chairman and Vice should be offered the 1st opportunity and to elect two deputies to attend in their absents. The committee agreed with this suggestion.

Gerallt Evans and Helen Morgan agreed to stand as Council members. The deputy Council members were elected as follows:

Rhiannon Rees proposed Andrew Davies who declined to stand. Gareth Williams proposed Kathryn Savage. This was seconded by Danielle Evans. Gareth Williams proposed Danielle

Evans as the second deputy Council member. This was seconded by Wil Gethin and Danielle agreed to stand.

The members were informed that at last years AGM, the County Vice Presidents were increased from 4 to 5 to accommodate all standing nominees. The Committee were asked if they wished to keep the number at 5 or to reduce it back down to 4 at this years AGM. Gron Bumford suggested for it to go back to only Four Vice Preseidents. This was proposed by Andrew Davies and seconded by Steve Francis.

E56/10/11 TO ELECT COUNTY LINKS PERSONS

A) INTERNATIONAL

The Chairman explained that the role is for this person to hep promote any International opportunities to the membership. In previous years this has been the Discovery Committee Chairman. Andrew Davies suggested that it should be a County representative who sits on the Wales YFC A&I Committee. The committee agreed that this would be beneficial and therefore postponed this election until September when the Wales YFC Sub Committee elections will take place. Nicola Walker added that in the past, it has worked well to have the International Links Person give a presentation at the Club Officials Training at the beginning of the year.

B) RURAL AFFAIRS

The Chairman explained that the role is similar to the International Links Person except this person helps to promote Rural Affairs. Again the Committee felt that it would be best to have someone who sits on the Wales YFC Rural Affairs sub committee. Therefore this election is to take place in September.

E57/10/11 TO ELECT WALES COUNCIL & SUB COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES TO COME INTO OFFICE IN SEPTEMBER 2011

Roland announced that the retiring representatives included himself, Gerallt Evans, Helen Morgan and Sonya Wedge.

The following people were elected to stand as new Council members:

1. Kathryn Savage nominated by Gareth Williams, seconded by Beth Watkins
2. Gerallt Evans
3. Helen Morgan } nominated by Andrew Davies, seconded by Gareth Williams
4. Danielle Evans } nominated by Derwena Davies, seconded by Angharad Richards

The Committee agreed to elect the sub committee representatives at the September Executive when the new Club representatives take on their positions.

E58/10/11 TO RECEIVE REPORTS

A) Activities Committee - Gareth Williams

Gareth reported that attendance had been poor at the last meeting, however final arrangements for the County Sports had been made. He announced that as the rounders and netball had been called off, they are now rescheduled to take place at Abermule School on Thursday 23rd June. A letter was read from the Discovery Committee informing members of the next meeting and how to get involved with the exchange with Cornwall YFC. Welshpool Livestock Market had been approached to host the 2011 Field Day, who had written to accept the invitation on the condition that only their caterers were to be used to provide food for the event. Due to this it was decided to look at alternative venues such as farms within the area of the organising groups. The Rugby Club in Llanidloes town had been booked for the Autumn Dance for Friday 16th September.

Steve Francis and Cathy Jones had been nominated to organise the County Dinner. They are looking into the possibility of holding a murder mystery evening.

B) Finance & Development Committee - Gerallt Evans

The topic from Wales; 'Your YFC, Your Say' was discussed and voting options were narrowed down to two. Correspondence was read out regarding the Welsh Livery Guild and the Discovery Committee's Cornwall exchange. There was no treasurers' report but subscription rates for 2011/12 were discussed and a proposal was put together. Helen gave a Publicity Report and informed that press releases had been submitted to various papers about the County Rally. The County Camera was working well and she suggested looking into grants to improve the website so that pictures can be uploaded easier.

The membership figure breakdowns for the last 3 years were studied and discussed. It was felt that County Officials should do all they can to encourage clubs to maintain membership. The Wales TP agenda was reviewed. Members commented that they liked the new logo and website that was more user friendly. Concern was expressed that too much involvement with the Urdd may jeopardise YFC membership.

Training was discussed in preparation for the Field Day. Helen reminded the committee that Stockjudging trainers would visit club training evenings on request. ATV training session would be offered to members on a weekend during September. If members were interested in completing First Aid training they are to be signposted to courses. Club Officials training is to take place in September and March.

C) Youth Forum

Due to exams, no meeting took place therefore there was no report given.

D) County Rally - Bathan Watkins

The final meeting is to be held on Wednesday 22nd June where the financial income will be confirmed, but it is predicted that a healthy profit has been made. The committee were happy with how the event went and Beth congratulated Berriew YFC on their winning success. She informed the Committee that Mr Simmons had kindly donated £1000 to the Federation

E) Discovery Committee - Danielle Evans

The last meeting was held on 5th May where attendance was poor therefore the deadline to get names for the summer exchange with Cornwall YFC was postponed. Following the meeting publicity for the trip has been increased with posters being sent to clubs, displayed on the website, letters were sent to Sub Committees and a promotional stand was held at the County Rally. Once numbers are finalised, further arrangements can be made.

F) Eisteddfod Committee - Steve Francis

Preparations have been going well with about half of the judges confirmed already. The competitions have been decided upon and the suggestion from last year's committee to amend the scoring system has been taken on board. Steve was happy to report that Gareth Vaughan had agreed to stand as the Eisteddfod President this year and was in attendance at the last meeting. Arrangements for the Eisteddfod Chair are ongoing. The main issue at the moment is securing a venue for the event, which is hoped to be resolved before the next meeting which is to be held on Thursday 14th Jule at Coleg Powys Farm, 7.30pm.

G) Rural Affairs - Tomos Harrison

A meeting was held on 15th June that was poorly attended, but despite this discussions were had about attending various agricultural shows over the summer. Tomos reported that Wales YFC had invited him to attend the Mid Wales Group Connections workshop which he attended in the hope of learning something but was disappointed that they were after opinions.

H) National Council

There had not been a meeting since the last Executive Committee meeting.

I) Menter Maldwyn - Gerallt Evans

Gerallt had been asked to remain on the committee. Discussions were had regarding Dylan Penri's employment. They were happy with the arrangement with the YFC and hoped that it can continue. The main topic of the meeting was to arrange maternity cover for Rhiannon Jones. Interviews are being held 17th June, but if candidates are unsuccessful, the post will be readvertised.

J) Stockjudging - Gron Bumford

Gron reported that there had not been much support for the 3 Counties Show so unfortunately the County would not be taking any members to compete at the event this year. He requested for names to be sent to him from the office to compete at the Royal Welsh Show. He had returned the Elin Jones memorial trophy from the Royal Welsh Show to be engraved. He reported that the Poo Competition held at the County Rally had raised £217 for the County and announced the winners.

K) Any Other reports

Board of Management - Emyr Jones

Emyr announced that a letter had been received from Bronwen Harding, County Secretary, requesting to reduce her hours to 3 days per week (Monday's, Thursday's and Friday's), from 1st September 2011. The request has been approved by Board of Management and Powys CC, on the condition that someone could fill in for the remaining 2 days. The part time post will be advertised internally within Powys County Council in approximately 1 month's time for 2 weeks (redployees that apply would have to be interviewed but would not necessarily have to be employed). After the two weeks the advert will be opened for anyone to apply and the County is permitted to advertise externally. Emyr asked the Committee for the approval to fund the external adverts for the advertisements. With no objections, approval was granted.

The Board of management had discussed approaching Karen Gittins-Jones to sit on the board to offer advice on investments and oversee the accounts. The Executive members agreed to this suggestion.

Lorraine will require approximately 10 hours of training in order to keep the Sage accounts package updated appropriately. Emyr asked the committee to approve for this training to be funded by the Federation, which was granted.

A suggestion was put forward from the Board of Management to the Executive Committee to create a policy to tender for account auditors ever 2 or 3 years in order to seek competitive prices. The Committee discussed the concept and agreed that it would be a good idea in future but for the time being it would be beneficial to concentrate on improving out account systems and procedures and once the Federation has a good grasp on what we do and what we need from our accountants, to then move forward with such a tender. Sonya Wedge proposed that it would be beneficial to sit down with the current accountant to establish how we can improve our current procedures. Steve Francis

seconded this proposal. The Committee agreed for Lorraine Stokes, Sonya Wedge, Danielle Evans, Roland Davies and Janet Rowlands to be in attendance at this meeting.

Emyr and Roland described to the committee an issue that had been reported from Nia Lloyd at the Board of Management meeting:

One of the issues that is to be discussed at the next NFYFC Council meeting, is that within Wales there are 3 or 4 Counties that years back, had an understanding with NFYFC that they would not have to pay the fares pool as their members do not attend the meetings and have no interest in competing at National level. Until a recent review by the NFYFC Board of Management, this arrangement was carried out, but now NFYFC are going back on their word and are trying to charge these Counties for all of the years that they have not submitted payment. For some this is thousands of pounds and will be detrimental on the survival of their Federation.

The Executive Committee agreed that they wished for the Montgomery representatives at the NFYFC Council meeting to express their opinion that the referred Counties should not be charged for the backdated debt, but from now on should pay the fares pool if they want to be part of the Young Farmers movement.

Agriscop - Roland Davies

A reception was held at the County Rally and sponsors were invited to attend in order to get feedback. The reception was quite successful with 8 or 9 sponsors in attendance and positive feedback was given that will be used to develop the sponsorship packages for next year.

The adoption of the reports were accepted, proposed by Steve Francis, seconded by Gareth Williams.

E59/10/11 CLUB AGM's

Members were reminded that they need to hold their AGM's before the 31st August and to let the office know in good time so that a county representative can be sent along to collect the signed set of accounts.

They were also reminded that before the 31st August, clubs must also return to the office the form listing the details of the club officials and the County Committee representatives.

E60/10/11 A) TO DISCUSS ANY RELEVANT MATTERS ON THE WALES COUNCIL AGENDA

It was mentioned that Wales YFC are currently working on a document for members to distinguish the pro's and con's of being affiliated to either Wales YFC or NFYFC.

B) NOMINATIONS FOR THE POST OF WALES CHAIRMAN & VICE CHAIRMAN

Nicola Walker explained that the elections for these positions are carried out on a regional basis, North and South (with Montgomery being in the North). Dylan Jones is currently Vice Chairman from Carmarthen (South) therefore the next Vice Chairman needs to come from the North region.

The Committee were in agreement to put forward the nomination of Dylan Jones for Wales YFC Chairman.

Steve Francis proposed Caroline Dawson (Clwyd YFC) to be nominated as Wales YFC Vice Chairman. This was seconded by Gareth Williams. No further suggestions were made.

E61/10/11 POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

Roland reported that things were looking promising for each club to be issued with a bar code scanner from September to record attendance. This will be a great help to the County Office, but to save people having to travel too far to download the information from the scanners, it had been suggested from Powys County Council that it would be a good idea to approach volunteers from one or two areas of the County, who work for the Council and have access to a computer. They could then have the software put onto their work PC to download the data on behalf of YFC.

The committee suggested schools and Youth Clubs as first choice and if they were not suitable then Angaharad Richards, Jackie Pugh and Emma Savage would be likely candidates to approach.

E62/10/11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

County Quiz 2011

The annual Quiz had been scheduled for Monday 19th September. The committee were asked to put forward suggestion of venues for the event. Derwena Davies requested for the Committee to bear in mind the location of the other County events and to spread them around as much as possible to make it fair on all the members. Richard Jones suggested for the Activities Committee to look into other possible venues to hold sub committee meetings within the County and discuss the possibility of meetings being alternated between Newtown and another area.

Quiz venues were put forward and agreed:

Llanfair Sports Hall was suggested as 1st choice, Llanidloes Community Centre 2nd choice and Llanfyllin High School was 3rd Choice.

AGM 2011

Members were reminded that the date of the County AGM is Thursday 30th June and will take place at Glantwymyn Community Centre. Voting will take place of the President and Vice Presidents at the meeting. The Chairman requested for all clubs to return the names of their voting representatives to the office as soon as possible.

3 Federations Summer Ball

Roland urged all members to book their tickets for the event at the Royal Welsh Showground on 25th June through the County Office as soon as possible. He emphasised that the event was very good value for money with a top Radio 1 DJ in attendance, hog roast and casino tables.

Ifor Jones reflected on the fact that many of the Sub Committee reports from the evening had mentioned that attendance had been poor. He suggested that the County Officials attending Club AGM's should encourage Club officials to attend the September training. The training session should incorporate building up their confidence in interacting with each other so they will be more willing to come along to County meetings.

Andrew Davies suggested issuing a questionnaire to those members who fail to attend County meetings to get real answers as appose to speculating what the reasons might be. It was agreed that this would be a beneficial exercise.

With no further business, the meeting was declared closed at 10pm.

Signed: Dated: